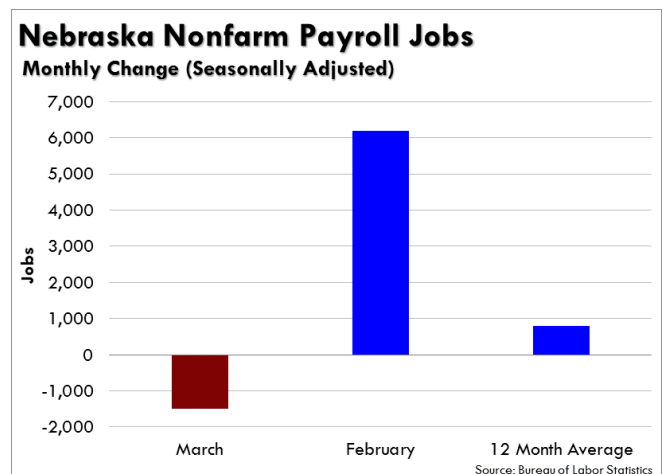
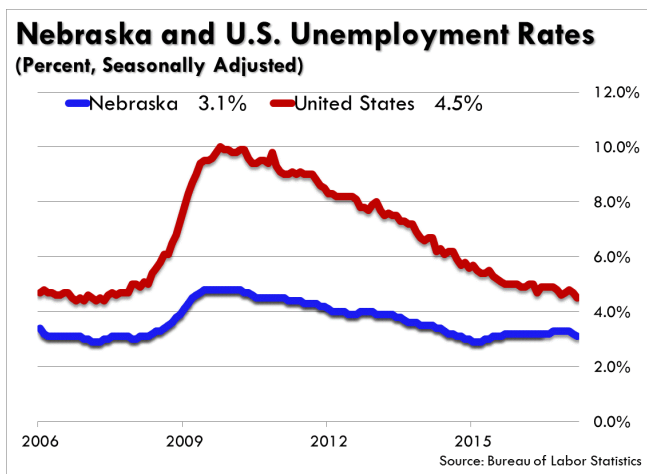


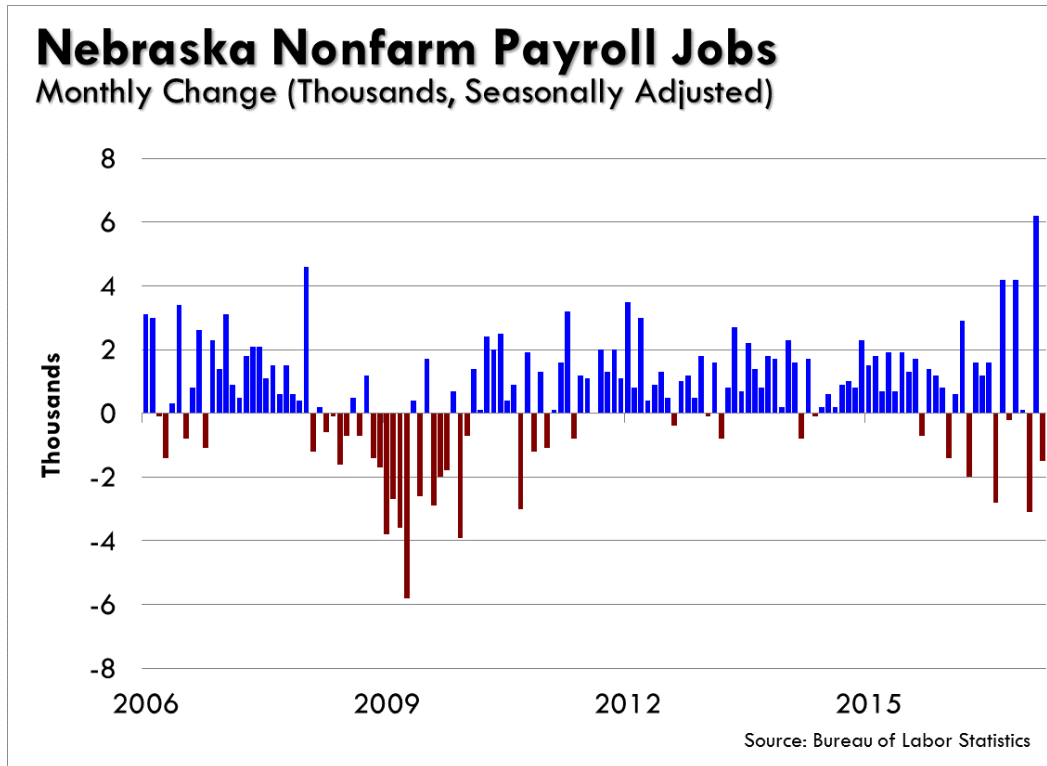


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Nebraska lost 1,500 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.1 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Nebraska added 9,500 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point from 3.2 percent.
- **In March, Nebraska's private sector lost 1,900 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 10,400 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Nebraskans fell by 1,560 in March**, and over the past year 626 Nebraskans lost jobs.
- Nebraska's **labor force participation rate decreased to 69 percent** from 69.2 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.6 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Nebraska Payroll Employment

Nebraska lost 1,500 jobs, or 0.15 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Nebraska added 6,200 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Nebraska increased by 9,500, or 0.94 percent. Nebraska nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

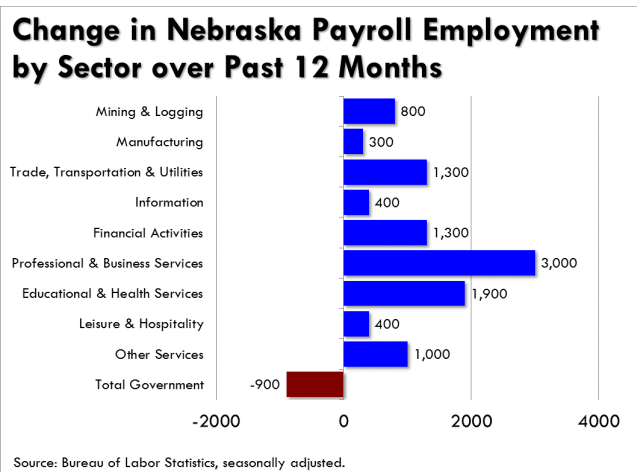
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Nebraska ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Nebraska's private-sector lost 1,900 jobs, or 0.22 percent. The private-sector in Nebraska added 6,500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Nebraska increased by 10,400, or 1.24 percent. Nebraska private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Nebraska ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Financial Activities (+600) and Total Government (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-1,200) and Professional & Business Services (-1,000).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+3,000) and Educational & Health Services (+1,900). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (-900) and Manufacturing (+300).



Nebraska Labor Force Statistics

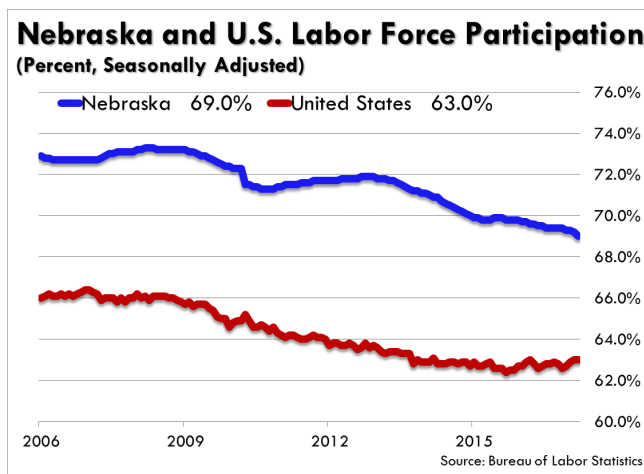
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Nebraska declined to 69.0 percent in March from 69.2 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 5 have a higher labor force participation rate than Nebraska. The labor force participation rate in Nebraska is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Nebraska was 73.3 percent in May 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Nebraska occurred in April 2003 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 69.0 percent in March 2017. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in May 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Nebraska civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 66.9 percent in March. At 66.9 percent,



Nebraska has one of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska is 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska was 71.0 percent in March 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Nebraska occurred in December 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 66.9 percent in March 2017. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 63.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

